

ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society
November/December 2004

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The views expressed in Echo Ireland do not necessarily represent the views of the Society or the Editor

**Deadline for next edition
January 25th**

We wish all
experimenters,
shortwave listeners,
their families and
friends a very
happy Christmas
and a prosperous
and healthy
New Year.

From the officers and members of the
I RTS Committee



Mick Hoban EI5DCB

The South Eastern Amateur Radio Group revived their rally this year after a lapse of many years. The rally was very successful having been ably organised by Mick EI5DCB.

**IRTS Committee
January 8th at 1100
Montague Hotel, Portlaoise**

**Phoenix Radio Club
Radio Rally
Coolmine
Community School
February 6th 2005**

**IRTS AGM Weekend 2005
Limerick Rally
March 12/13th
Greenhills Hotel, Limerick**

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News Bulletins and Readers

Sunday				
Dublin	1045	144.275	SSB	Albert EI6AS
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB	Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC
Wicklow	1130	7.068	SSB (as Gaeilge)	Paddy EI7GK
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Sean EI5GH, Brendan EI8IB
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI7IT, Gerry EI5HJ
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM	As 1145
Monday				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Con EI7DJB, Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW
Louth	2000	145.500		Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
Galway	2000	145.625		Aengus EI4ABB, Richard EI5GC
Tuesday				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	John EI8JA, Robbie EI8FZB

Silent Keys

EI9AR

Terry Crosbie EI9AR from Ballinasloe passed away on 6th November 2004. Our deepest sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

EI6GO

It is with deep regret that we announce the sudden passing of Ronnie McGrath EI6GO on Saturday the 13th of November.

Ron was a very popular radio amateur and will be missed by his many friends in the community.

Our deepest sympathy to his wife Brenda and his family. May he rest in peace.

Tipperary Amateur Radio Group

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Tipperary Amateur Radio Group was held on Wednesday November 24th in Raheen House, Clonmel.

John EI2JB, called the meeting to order and the first order of business was a minutes silence in memory of the late Ron McGrath EI6GO.

The new committee elected is as follows;

Chairman John Ronan, EI7IG,
Vice Chairman Eamonn Kavanagh - EI3FFB

Secretary: John Burke, EI2JB.

Treasurer: Tommy Hallinan, EI2IT

P.R.O.: Paul Norris, EI3ENB.

A very frank and open discussion ensued covering all aspects of club activity.

Plans are underway to try and organise a Christmas Dinner hopefully with a date early in December.

Please keep a check on www.ei7trg.org and S18 after the news on Sunday nights for more up to date information.

A Message from the President of IRTS

As we move towards the end of another year there is always a very strong temptation to look back on the happenings of the year just gone and to anticipate the prospects for the year ahead.

IRTS (or indeed its President) is not immune from this temptation and I hope our readers will bear with me as I indulge in a little navel-gazing.

For me, 2004 was, above all else, a year of poor propagation. As the sunspot cycle dipped ever lower it became more and more difficult to achieve those long-distance QSOs on the HF bands.

Yes, I admit there were short periods when the gloom lifted and conditions improved – like during the CQWW SSB contest – but generally the conditions were such that the DXer could be excused for suffering bouts of depression. Recent predictions from NASA suggest that we will have to wait two more years before the upswing commences and then a further four years before we hit the peak again. Patience is a virtue much sought after by the Radio Amateur!

Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do about the sunspot cycle but other events took place during the year that arose, partially at least, from our own efforts.

The 7 MHz band was extended in October - in fact, doubled in size. Since early in the year IRTS had been lobbying the Regulator to release the segment 7.100 to 7.200 MHz to Irish amateurs in line with the movement in that direction taking place in other European countries. The release, when it came, was unexpected and without notice, and we would have preferred it if were done differently.

However, let us not look a gift horse in the mouth and be grateful that we are among the first countries in Europe to achieve the band extension.



I hope we will now show our gratitude by getting up there and using it!

Difficulties continue where the Theory Exam is concerned. In a joint effort between ComReg and IRTS one exam was held during the year. I do not believe that a single exam satisfied the pent-up demand that exists for access to our hobby. Unfortunately, it was not possible to schedule any further exams. ComReg is now in the process of outsourcing the Theory Exam and expects the IRTS to take over the exams from early in 2005.

We will be looking very carefully at what is involved but will always be mindful of the best interests of those seeking entry to our hobby.

I wrote last year of experiments in Power Line Transmission being undertaken by the ESB. These experiments have been subjected to serious delays and to date have not come to fruition. We are pleased to note that ComReg is taking its responsibilities seriously in monitoring these experiments, but IRTS will continue to stay in touch with everybody concerned with a view to protecting the amateur bands.

You will read a report elsewhere in this issue on EURADIO, the Weekend of Welcomes at the beginning of May when we welcomed ten new members to the EU.

The setting up and operation of 11 HF stations – particularly in areas with a small amateur population – involved a huge effort by many people.

That the operation was such a success is a tribute to all concerned and, once again, I express my thanks to them all.

Inevitably, more names were added to the list of Silent Keys this year.

Let us spare a thought this Christmas to remember them and to pray that their families will gain comfort from their achievements during life.

To those who work on behalf of Amateur Radio or the IRTS I send a big thank you.

Remember, nobody in the Society gets paid. Everybody is a volunteer, whether travelling to Committee meetings, sorting QSL cards, teaching classes or writing for the Newsletter.

So the next time you feel like complaining, why don't you look at things another way and ask "What can I do to help?"

To all members of IRTS, and to everybody involved in Amateur Radio, I send my best wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

I hope that New Year brings Health and Prosperity and good DX.

Beannacht na Nollag agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise dhibh go leir.

Best 73,

Sean EI4GK

Irish Radio Transmitters Society
Annual General Meeting
Sunday March 13th
at 1430
Greenhills Hotel,
Limerick.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society
Annual Dinner
Saturday March 12th
Greenhills Hotel, Limerick.
Tickets from Paul Kirkby EI6FE
061-360122

Annual
Limerick Rally
Sunday March 13th
Greenhills Hotel, Limerick
Enquiries to Paul Kirkby EI6FE
061-360122

Dave Court EI3IO in Bangladesh

During a recent visit to Dhaka, Bangladesh, Dave EI3IO met the officers of the Bangladesh Amateur Relay League (BARL) and discussed some of the problems facing amateur radio in Bangladesh.

Dave is currently engaged on a World Bank funded project addressing a number of spectrum management issues in Bangladesh, including the development of a National Frequency Allocation Plan and a number of licensing questions.

It is hoped that new arrangements will be introduced shortly concerning amateur radio in Bangladesh, which may include an application by Bangladesh to join the CEPT provisions for operating amateur radio equipment in Europe and vice versa.

In the picture taken at the BARL club station, in addition to EI3IO a number of officials of the BARL Executive Committee are shown.

IRTS Members may be interested to know that although there is not too much activity on HF, there is a thriving 2 metre repeater on 145.225/145.825 MHz with the call S21RB.

This can be accessed via Echolink and the Internet from anywhere in the World.

Dave has informed us that there may be some HF IOTA activity on one weekend in January from a very rare reference in the Bay of Bengal, he may participate in this.

He is also planning to activate a station on 50 MHz in June 2005 and will be looking particularly for Middle East and European multi-hop Es QSOs.



Cork Radio Club

European Capital of Culture

Next year Cork City has been nominated as the European Capital of Culture.

Many events are being planned in the city throughout the year.

To coincide with these celebrations Cork Radio Club intends to activate a special call. Details of this call sign and the award that is planned will be available in the near future.

Next year, the club will also celebrate its thirtieth anniversary.

ARISS Contact

One of the biggest amateur events of the year is going to take place in Cork on Friday December 17th.

The European Space Agency has chosen Ireland this year for a contact with the Space Station. They have chosen a school in Cork.

The ESA have been in contact with the Departments of Education and Science, and Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the Science Foundation Ireland, among others.

The Europe Chairman of ARISS Gaston Bertels, ON4WF has been in touch with IRTS, who are in liaison with ESA.

It is intended that upwards to 300 children will be invited to participate in the event which will be held at University College Cork.

Cork Radio Club will be involved in the setting up of a telebridge contact with either VK5ZAI or WH6PN which ever has the best link to the space station. The children will be invited to submit questions to the astronauts.

Cork ATV Group.

Work has been carried out recently on the repeater EI2TVR. The picture quality has been greatly enhanced mainly due to the work that Mick EI9FEB has done on the PCBs and it is now able to transmit Stereo sound. We would like to thank John Kelleher EI8HS also for the work he has done in debugging some of the problems with the equipment.

Cork Radio Club meets weekly, on Monday nights, at Wilton Park House, Wilton, in Cork City close to the Cork University Hospital.

Visitors and new members are always very welcome.



From the Editor.....

New technology

Another year is coming to an end and we should stop and take stock of the state of our hobby four years into the new millennium.

Technology continues to move ahead rapidly and we, as experimenters, seem slow to move with it. Every new advance brings out the old guard who seem to fear progress and this is not new, it was always so.

During the past year, the internet has become closely entwined with amateur radio and we now have a repeater network linked to the net via IRLP. We also have seen the first licensed Echolink node come on stream. As with all things new and often misunderstood, I have heard very strong views expressed both for and against the new developments. As a body we have to reach a consensus on our approach to the introduction of new developments and this is not an easy task. Unfortunately the vast majority remain silent and we tend to hear only the views of the committed on both sides of the argument.

Of course we could just sit back and let it all take its course and depend on the regulator, in our case ComReg, to manage the situation.

Unfortunately, it's not really that simple. We are by definition self regulating hobbyists and up to now at least we have managed internationally to keep order by mutual agreements, i.e. the voluntary band plans.

We in Ireland are a very small community of radio enthusiasts and our record is not great in co-operating with one another. Those involved in the efforts to get a viable national packet radio system organised some years ago will know what I mean.

The society needs a viewpoint on the use of the internet with radio and your views are important. Do not leave this decision solely to the committee members. Please forward your views to the editor.

QSL Cards

Apparently we in EI do not have a good reputation for replying to QSL cards. Again, you wither love them or hate them but a good proportion of operators like to send and receive QSL cards, especially award chasers.

Our Worked EI Counties Awards is suf-

fering greatly as many have worked the counties but cannot get the necessary cards. Unbelievably, there are a few well-known operators who do not have the decency to return pre-printed cards with a stamped self-addressed envelope provided. All they have to do is sign or initial it and pop it in the post.

QRZ.com is now widely used for call-sign listings and gives us a great opportunity to state our QSLing policy. I urge all operators to log on and indicate whether they respond to direct or bureau cards or both. Fine if you do not QSL but at least save others the bother of sending cards in vain.

Of course the decent thing is to indicate during the QSO whether you use the bureau or not.

This would also help reduce the cost and the voluntary man-hours involved in running the QSL bureaus. Even in a small country like ours, the number of cards received for non-members is very high and as well as the time wasted, there is also the cost of returning these cards to the originator. It is IARU policy and also good practise to return undeliverable cards and IRTS complies with policy.

Operating standards

The method of entry to the hobby has dramatically changed over recent years and it is very noticeable on the air. In many cases, new licensees have no listening hours under their belt and their first radio is often a transceiver which is immediately used in transmit mode. Knowledge of band plans and other conventions we all take for granted is lacking and often results in bad feeling needlessly developing.

Every operator should have either the ARRL or RSGB operating manual to hand and should have a basic knowledge of procedures and practices used on air. Of course, the experienced operator should not dive in with abuse or criticism. If you hear someone that is causing problems, a phone call is the best way to deal with the issue. On air confrontation is not the way to go. People deliberately messing or causing QRM should always be ignored. To engage with them or even acknowledge their presence is only giving them satisfaction. Ignore them and they will always go away.

Badges at rallies

Several people have asked me to urge rally goers to identify themselves. The practice of wearing callsign badges or even caps seems to have declined and it does take away from the social enjoyment of the occasion.

Most shops that supply and engrave trophies can supply engraved badges and another option is available at all stationary shops. These are the plastic name holders that clip on and you can either print or write your name on a piece of card.

Go on, get a badge and don't be anonymous.

Clubs

Our clubs play a very important part in the development of the hobby. Most new licensees these days come via a club. Unfortunately, the club scene in EI is not in a very healthy state and several have wound up in recent years.

At the top end, we do have a small number of very successful clubs but a large proportion are struggling to keep going. The same few diehards are left to make all the effort and often do not get the support they deserve.

A lack of purpose is often a big problem and a club without an aim is bound to drag a bit.

Clubs, by their nature, should be doing things that an individual would not have the resources to do alone.

Please try to get involved in some activity during the coming year.

News Input

I appeal to club officers, particularly secretaries and PRO's to make regular news contribution to both the radio news and newsletter.

The radio news in particular needs your help. The Editor, Mark EI7IS has a very difficult job to get a script out every Friday. Please play your part.

I also ask that groups and individuals submit pictures for Echo Ireland. Digital cameras are commonplace and it does not take much effort to email images.

Finally

My thanks to all who helped produce Echo Ireland during the past year and I look forward to your co-operation again during 2005.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and may all your dreams come true in 2005.

Dave EI4BZ



On The Air

With Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY

Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY,
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Welcome to another issue of On The Air, the last one for 2004 and what an exciting last two months or so it's been! We've had the sharp contrast in a few weeks of the Sun being totally 'spotless' for a few days to it unleashing massive X-Class Flares and CME's to cause total blackouts during the first two weeks of November.

On October 10th and 11th the Sunspot number was zero! Last time this year it was at zero was on January 27-28 and before that you'd have to go back to January 7-9th 1998.

Of course these quiet conditions weren't to last too long and we barely got through the CQ WW SSB Contest with reasonable to good conditions when the Sun unleashed powerful Coronal Mass Ejections (CME's) from Sunspot Groups 693 and 696. These impacted during the first few days of November causing severe Geomagnetic Storms and total blackouts of all HF bands and it wasn't for a couple of hours or even days until you could begin to hear anything on **10m** and **15m** again and seeing as the weekly Planetary A-index for the first week of November reached 77.6 that wasn't surprising hi!

Band Reports

Despite those poor conditions already mentioned, some surprising openings could be found on the higher bands and at times **10m** sounded like the 'good old' days' with openings to the Far East and VK land happening quite regularly.

The magic band of **6m** even opened briefly on November 1st no doubt helped by the ionising of the layers by the arrival of a big CME and stations worked in a 30 minute period between 11.10UTC and 11.40UTC included DL4FCS (JN48GD); F5OQK (IN96OK); F3CN (JN06IV); IW1AZJ (JN35UB) and 9A6CM (JN74OD).

There was another brief opening a week later on Nov 9th to Italy but nothing heard since (here at least).

A very unusual call was heard in October from the Chesterfield Islands (OC-176) as the German led team came on air at 0900utc October 14th using just TX9 as the call!

This led to much debate on the legality of the call as it's very unusual to have no suffix at all in a call but the ops as-

sured us that this was the call issued. The team had to go QRT a bit earlier than planned on October 20th but still managed some 23,680 QSO's in the log, 7,242 of them with Europe just to demonstrate how poor the bands were!

Meanwhile other German members of the Bavarian Contest Club decided to do something different for the 20th anniversary of the club by heading to Nepal to operate 9N7BCC from Nov 16 to Dec 5th, QSL cards go to DK7YY.

I'm typing this on the Sunday of the CQ WW CW Contest held over the weekend of November 27/28th and overall conditions seem to be quite good, just from listening around I've heard the following 'rare' ones from each of the main Continents;

in **Europe** were 4UI1TU, 4U1VIC, GD4IHC, GJ2A, GU4YOX, IS0HQJ, JW1CCA, LX7I, OH0B, OY1CT, J45KLN (SV5), SV0XAI/9, T77C, TF3YH, TK5EF, RW2F and ZA/Z35M; moving onto **Africa** you could have worked these: 3B8FQ, 3V8BB, 5H3KK, 5U5Z, 6W1RW, 7Q7BP, 7X0AD, 9J2SZ, C56JHF, C91F, CN2R, D4B, EA9PB, FR1HZ, S9A, SU9NC, TU2XZ, V51/DL5XL and VQ9LA.

Asia had to offer these for your log: 4K7Z, 4L8A, 4S7EA, 8Q7DV, 9M2/G3ZFE, 9N7BCC, 9V1YC, A45XR, A61AJ, EX2M, EY8MM, JT1JA, OD5/DJ5CL, UK9AA, VR2BG, YI9OM and ZC4LI; next 'door' in **Oceania** could be found: 3D2XA, DU9/N0NM, FK8GJ, AH2R, V73NS, VK9AA, VK9NW, VK9XG and ZK1EPY.

Finally onto the Americas and **North America** had these to tempt us with: 4U1UN, 6Y5IC, 8P5A, FG5FR, TO4A (FM), HI3K, HP3XUG, HR1RTF, J7OJ, OX2KAN, PJ7/K4MA, TI5N, V26K, V31RM, V47KP, VP2ETL, VP2MZM, VP2VVV, VP9I and YN4SU.

Last on the tour, **South America** had these stations QRV: 5K5Z (HK), 8R1K, 9Y4ZC, R1ANF (VP8H), CP6CW, EM1HO, HC8N, OA/9A6DX, P40Q, VP8WWW (Falklands) and ZP5CGL.

Hopefully some of the above found their way into some of your logs.

Small islands once again take to centre stage to make up most of the bands activity over the past couple of weeks.

Jan, PA3EXX, came on from a number

of Australian IOTA's including a new one between the end of October and beginning of November.

First up was North island (OC-198) using the call VK4WWI/8, then it was onto the Bremer islets (OC-185) with the same call, then Sweers island (OC-227) with just VK4WWI as the call sign. All these island groups lie in the Gulf of Carpentaria in between the Northern Territories and North Queensland but while it was no problem to work him from these islands Murphy struck in the form of the HF Bands blackouts just as Jan came on from the new IOTA, Marion Reef, part of the Coral Seas Islands Territory North and now IOTA number OC-267 and it was a struggle to even hear him, so one that got away hi!

Doing some keyboarding again from a very rare DXCC Entity was Joachim, PS7JN, who once again was QRV from St Peter and Paul Archipelago (SA-014) with the call PY0S/PS7JN from November 25th to December 10th while just a bit further south three US ops operated from the Falklands (SA-003) from November 20th to December 4th with the main intention to operate in the CQ WW CW Contest using the call VP8WWW,.

There was also activity before and after the Contest with the three ops using their individual calls which were: Cal, WF5W (VP8WFW), Madison, W5MJ (VP8WMJ), and Paul, W5PF (VP8WPF).

Doing some Pacific island hopping in December were well seasoned IOTA chasing French ops Michel, F6COW, Dominique, F6EPY, and Radi, F6GNZ who were on air as ZK1COW, ZK1EPY and ZK1GNZ respectively from Rarotonga (OC-013), South Cook Islands, plans were to then move onto the Marquesas Islands (OC-027) between December 11-23 as FO/Home calls.

Also heading for a change of scenery, but with a different contrast, Hugo, LA5YJ, who was active as 9N7JY and XU7ACW is now in the Sudan (ST) and hopes to have the call ST7YJ issued to him.

Near by in Somalia and after the piece about 6O0X and 6O0W now being good for DXCC in the last issue of Echo Ire-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

land the two ops in question, Baldur, DJ6SI, and Thomas, DL1QW, surprised the DX world by yet again coming on air as 600X (CW) and 600W (SSB and RTTY) during the month of November and were a persistent signal on **10m** most mornings! The duo went QRT on November 26th but Baldur, DJ6SI, has plans to return to Africa in December to once more operate from the Congo using his old call TN6X until December 12th

Up and Coming

Just after I'd announced the plans to activate Kerguelen Island in the last issue, another French Antarctica DXCC Entity will also be on air early next year! The archipelagos of Crozet (FT/W) occupy an area of the southern Indian Ocean between 45 95' and 46 50'S, 50 33' and 52 58'E and mark the only place where the underwater Crozet Plateau reaches sea level.

All the islands cover an area 325 sq km with the largest being Ile de la Possession at 150 sq km, but before you pack the suitcase bear in mind that these islands lie in the path of the "Roaring Forties" and have rain for 300 days of the year and 100 days of winds that reach more than 100 km/hr!

With those kinds of winds there are no trees at all anywhere, but it's not all that bad as Crozet has the largest population of birds anywhere in the world so at least it wouldn't be quiet there hi!

Braving the birds and the elements will be two French ops Nicolas, F4EGX, and Jean-Paul, F5BU, who was QRV from there already as FT5WG.

Rounding up that area watch out for Seb, FT1ZL, a Novice VHF only call who is awaiting full permission to use the HF Bands as France has dropped the Morse requirement, it's a first to have Kerguelen, Crozet and Amsterdam Islands on in the same year!

We have one DXpedition taking place in December which overshadows all of these by a fair margin though with the announcement that the Andaman and Nicobar islands will be activated between December 3rd to 31st.

Both groups consist of about 572 islands, islets and rocks that lie in the South Eastern part of the Bay of Bengal and run for about 800km approximately in a North-South line with the Andamans (AS-001) lying North of the Ten Degree channel line and the Nicobars (AS-033) lying South of the line.

The last time the Andamans were QRV was about 17 years ago and even though

it has a large city, Port Blair, an international airport and a thriving tourist economy permission to operate from here (and the other Indian DXCC Entity of the Laccadive Islands, VU7) is nigh on impossible to obtain but through careful years of delicate negotiations a group of five local Indian operators have received the go ahead to transmit from VU4 land. Led by Mrs Bharati Prasad, VU2RBI, who also operated in 1978 with 30 other operators and a three member trip in 1983, other members include VU2DBP, VU2MYH, VU3DVX and VU3RSB; this will be a small operation in terms of gear and experience as any 'non national' applications aren't likely to succeed at present so no stacked arrays and kilowatts on this one.

The group have plans to run two separate stations spaced a few miles apart and calls to be used are VU4NRO and VU4RBI with a QSL route to be determined, so looks like an exciting Christmas for DXer's!

Well as if those bits of DX planned for the end of this year and into next doesn't whet your appetite here's some more exciting DX news.

Plans are been drawn up by members of the Lone Star DX Association in Texas, USA, to bring political pressure on the US Fish and Wildlife Services ongoing decision not to allow Amateur Radio to operate from Navassa island (KP1) and Desecheo (KP5).

These two small islands lie in the Caribbean within easy reach for any DX trip but the US FWS closed off access to them ten years ago insuring their steady rise into the Top 10 'most wanted'.

Here's a quote from the Daily DX citing some of the 'reasons' why Amateur Radio is not permitted on both islands: The FWS insists that Desecheo is unsafe because of its former status as a military bombing range and that Navassa's delicate habitat could not withstand visitors. However, the FWS' own records show that a government demolitions team cleared the island of most old bombs two years ago, that FWS personnel have hiked Desecheo extensively since at least 1979 without mishap, and that FWS personnel regularly camp overnight on the island. Furthermore, the FWS has ignored the presence of illegal immigrants from



Haiti on Navassa who squat on the island and start fires and harm wildlife. In 2000, when FWS personnel spent several days on Navassa doing field work, they didn't even tell the dozens of Haitians on the island to leave.

This policy by the US WFS could extend to other Wildlife Reserves they control, plans by a group to head to Midway Atoll (KH4) to commemorate the Battle of Midway was denied permission by the Wildlife Services.

One US FWS official recently told a staff member of a Texas Congressman that Amateur Radio "is a worthless pastime conducted by people who have nothing better to do!" but hopefully pressure can be brought to bear by some US Congressmen who are trying to pass a bill to force the US FWS to allow Amateur Radio to operate from all their controlled areas.

Watch this space to see how that particular battle fares out hi!

Finally in this list of Top 10's 'might be's' I hear rumours that Finnish op Maarku, OH5XL, will be in North Korea (P5) over Christmas and has plans to operate for three days!

Definitely keep your rig on Christmas Day hi!

Mouth watering as all that potential DX is, there's also a lot of the more normal 'bread and butter' DXpeditions planned for the end of this year and the start of 2005.

Just after Christmas Day is finished English ops G0SWY and G4OHX plan to operate special event station GB6BOB starting on December 27th for a period of 28 days. They will be commemorating the Battle of the Bulge. Heading off west from there we start with the Caribbean first off and Pete, N2LM, has plans to ring in the New Year on the Cayman islands (NA-016) with the call ZF2PD.

Also close by and while it might share the same prefix block as KP1 and KP5, the US Virgin Islands (KP2) are very

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

easy to activate and are regularly on the air, but just in case you need it on an odd-ball band or mode YL Ann, W2AZK, and OM Brian ,KF2HC, will sign home calls/ KP2 between Jan 7-14. Expect them on all bands and modes with a special emphasis on the WARC bands.

Also in the same area, N4BAA, Jose plans to head down to Guantanamo Bay along with three other ops. Look for KG4SB and KG4AS to be QRV on 6 through 160 meters on CW, RTTY and the digital modes from January 18-25, 2005. They will have three stations up and running around the clock. QSL KG4SB via N4BAA and KG4AS via N4SIA.

Across on mainland Central America, Porfirio, XE1HPT, will head to Ixtapa island (NA-183) to use the nice prefixed call 6F1HPT.

Also island hopping, but this time in South America, the previously mentioned IOTA trip by a Chilean led group to activate a new one in Chile have announced more details. The call used will be CE8A with a timeframe of February 10-15. Staying on the same Continent, but different country, the French team heading to Salut island (SA-020) in French Guiana will use the call TO7C from March 10-17 and ops will include: F9IE, F5TVG, F5VHQ, F8BJI and OE3GCU.

Onto Africa now and with the licensing arrangements sorted out in Somalia it's certainly become a 'hot spot' for DX travellers. If you missed the aforementioned German team of 6O0W and 6O0X, then listen out for an Italian led team heading there from February 3-17. Ops Andrea, IK1PMR; Silvano, I2YSB; Marcello, IK2DIA; Adriano, IK2GNW; Beppe, IK2WXV and Riccardo, IZ5BRW will use the calls 6O0G for SSB and 6O0CW for CW and RTTY.

Finally, **6m** ops take note that K5AND, Dick, plans join forces with W7XU, Arliss, and ON4IQ, Johan, in Grenada (J3) next summer and they will be concentrating on Northern Europe QSOs. Look for activity from June 23 to July 4.

Well that's it for this issue and this year, thank you all for your comments throughout the year and I'd like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a DX full Happy New Year.

My thanks to the Daily DX for some of the news items, until next year, keep listening!

73 de EI2HY

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

The 47th Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) took place over the weekend of October 23/24th.

Headquarters station for Ireland, EI1NCSJ was at the Helix in the campus of Dublin City University, as it was also the venue for the inaugural National Council of Scouting Ireland. Operation of this station was assisted by North Dublin Radio Club, EI0NDR and Charlie EI2EM who demonstrated ATV.

Also in Dublin the 132nd Dublin Scout Group was on air under its own callsign EI4BST and EI2SDR/J operated from the National Scout Campsite in Larch Hill.

In County Waterford, Mount Melleray Scout Campsite was operational under its own callsign EI5MRC and in Tramore, the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group operated from the Den of the 8th Waterford Scout Group under the callsign EI2SJW.

In County Kerry the 2nd Kerry Sea Scouts, EI2KSS operated from Tralee under the supervision of their Skipper, Brian EI4GL.

According to initial reports Scouts were in contact with JOTA Stations throughout Europe and as far as the USA and Australia.

Scouts at the various stations got to use a wide range of modes including ATV, PSK and APRS. However the biggest hit with the Scouts was the IRLP network, which enabled clear communications to the far side of the earth.

Stations that participated in this years JOTA are requested to submit reports including photographs and press cuttings by 30th November to jota@scouts.ie or by snail mail to the National JOTA Organiser, Scouting Ireland, Larch Hill, Dublin 16. All reports received will be used in compiling the National Report that will be submitted to the World Scout Headquarters in Geneva.

Report forms can be downloaded from the Scouting Ireland Radio Scouting Web-page at www.scouts.ie/jota or obtained on request from jota@scouts.ie.

Flat Screen TV Fools Rescue Satellite

An Oregon resident has been told he could face a \$10,000 fine if he continues to use a new flat screen television set that is radiating a high power spur on the International Distress Channel of 121.5 MHz.

This, after an October 2nd visit by a contingent of local police, civil air patrol and search and rescue personnel.

Chris van Rossmann of Corvallis owns the year old Toshiba flat screen T-V. Unknown to him, the set was radiating a signal that was strong enough to be heard by the orbiting Sarsat - Cospas search and rescue satellite. From there it was relayed the Air Force Rescue Center at Langley Air Base in Virginia which activated a search.

Van Rossmann found out about his broken television set when the search team knocked on his door. They were expecting to find a malfunctioning portable emergency transponder like those carried on boats and in light plans. Instead their T-hunting gear lead them to the college students T-V.

This is not the first time that an errant piece of ground based electronic gear has fooled the Sarsat - Cospas rescue satellite.

About 12 years ago the crystal oscillator in an inadequately shielded broadcast graphics machine brought a similar response to a production studio in New Jersey. In that case the Ampex Digital Optics unit was quickly retired from service.

Van Rossmann is faring a lot better. Toshiba has contacted him and offered to provide him with a replacement set, for free of charge. (Published reports)

New Overlay Maps of North America on EI8IC's Website

**There has been a major new addition
to the EI8IC website:
NAOMI - the North American
Overlay Mapper.**



NAOMI is a suite of 49 full screen overlay-maps, covering North America. Packed full of features, NAOMI is an important new tool for all aspects of Amateur Radio in North America. More than just a static map, NAOMI combines the 25 different overlays with an instant navigation system that can load and annotate a map, adding push pins from its data-base of 1000's of pre-programmed locations. In addition, you have access to a large range of calculation and measurement tools, APRS display, plus easy loading of high-resolution satellite and weather maps.

Who is it for ?

NAOMI is ideal for every ham, no matter where their special field of interest might be. The local ragchewer, the VHF DXer, County Hunter, Field Day Team, Sweep-Stakes Contester, RACES and ARES group, Rover or APRS mobile, IOTA expeditioner; all will find NAOMI an important tool for everyday use.

What can it do ?

Although its 49 maps and over 1200 overlays provide an un-surpassed level of North American raster mapping, its features go far beyond that of a static map-viewer.

NAOMI uses its unique concept of Map-Pins that are easily referenced to 1000's of pre-programmed positions. Each pin combines positional and ident information with their function as a base for on-screen graphics plotting: distance and bearing lines, range rings, and more.

In addition, the 3 User-Lists, easily loaded with your own set of spatial points can reference to every other feature in the database, as well as being plotted on whichever map they appear on. Add the live APRS icons from the FindU database, the easy access to live Satellite and Weather Radar images, the Table Viewer with 130 sortable tables, and NAOMI really is the mapping suite you have always been waiting for.

For further details, screen shots, features-list, and a fully-operational demonstration version that you can download, please visit my website.

73

Tim Makins EI8IC

<http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/>

<http://www.qsl.net/ei8ic/>

Visit <http://www.qsl.net/ei8ic/>

Fingal Radio Club

Fingal Radio Club held it's Annual General Meeting at it's meeting rooms in Erins Isle GAA Centre on Monday the 18th of October.

Club Chairman Chris Yeates EI7AAB in his chairman's address thanked both the committee and fellow members for their help and support in assisting him throughout the past year.

He thanked Sean Linehan EI7CV for his role as club treasurer throughout the year and also for his culinary skills with the Christmas Party feast the club enjoyed. He also thanked Aidan Murphy EI5HW for his work as club secretary including his contributions to the IRTS news and for his 'practical' Hot Air Ballooning Lecture that he brought to the club during the summer months.

Aidan was also congratulated on his Echolink project and for providing and making available his licensed Internet linking gateway to the general amateur radio community.

The George Stritch Memorial Award is awarded each year to a club member who in the eyes of the majority of club members, has shown or given exemplary and or exceptional service to the club over the previous 12 months.

It also may be awarded to a person who in the eyes of the current members has served the club over many years in an unselfish and caring manner.

This year the award went to Joe Driscoll EI7CRB.

In a unanimous vote, the existing committee were re elected for a further 12 month term.



Joe Driscoll EI7CRB who was presented with the George Stritch Memorial Award for his long service to the Fingal club

**National
4 Metre Activity Nights
First Tuesday every month
70.2625 MHz FM
2000-2200**

**IRTS
Committee Meeting
January 8th 2005
Montague Hotel,
Portlaoise
at 1100
Clubs representatives welcome.**

The Durango Kid Goes Stateside

By Declan EI9HQ

When I told my friends in January 2004 that I proposed to visit the United States, rent a 4 x 4, travel through four States, activate Lighthouses and attend the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society Annual Convention ON MY OWN, they reacted with disbelief.

Your see, I had never driven in the States before – indeed I had never been in the States before – and the scare stories came thick and fast. “You’ll never manage the motorways!”, “How will you get your radios through security?”, “You’ll have nobody to talk to!” “You’d better shave off that beard!” and countless more well-intentioned, if useless remarks.

Any sane person would have abandoned the project on the spot but as I already knew, I’m not sane – at least in the conventional sense.

My interest in activating Lighthouses began in 1999 when I was part of a team that participated in the Lighthouse weekend from the Old Head of Kinsale Lighthouse in County Cork. I later joined the newly formed Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society and as part of my Worked All Ireland operations succeeded in activating quite a few Irish Lighthouses, including some on the off-shore islands.

I got to know some of the Stateside members of the Society and when I received an invitation to attend the 2004 Convention of the Society at North Carolina Outer Banks, I quickly accepted. A visit to the United States had always been on my agenda so when a “good excuse” presented itself, it seemed like the right thing to do.

Let there be no doubt about it! I put a lot of work into the preparation of the trip and when I arrived in Baltimore, Maryland on 24th September 2004 I knew exactly what I intended to do, where I intended to go and how I was going to get there.

I had reserved a small Jeep as my companion for the journey. I drove out of the car rental compound, not in a small Jeep, but in a Dodge Durango SUV (Sports Utility Vehicle), 4.7 liter petrol engine, automatic transmission, cruise control and a driving position so high up that I could have been in an airplane.



I got to love that car!

First stop the following morning was the Ham Radio Outlet in Woodbridge, Virginia where I picked up some bits and pieces to facilitate my planned mobile operation.

At the home of Jack W4NF, he helped me to rig up the mobile antennas, install my radios, laptop, GPS and those other items I needed in preparation for my journey.

The following day, Sunday 26th, I was on my way and made my first acquaintance with Interstate 95. This major highway runs the full length of the eastern United States from Maine until it ends at the tip of Florida. I was to become very familiar with this road over the next two weeks. That same day, I activated my first US Lighthouse USA-474, Marcus Hook, and went on to spend the next four days activating Lighthouses in Delaware.

On the road, I began to pick up the first of my EI/GI contacts. Tony EI3HA in Roscommon, Ian EI3Y in Kilcullen and Mike EA8EQ (EI0CL and resident in the Canary Islands) were among the first entries in the log. More were to join them in the following days as I rolled down Interstate 95, notably John EI7BA.

Friday 1st October saw me afloat on Chesapeake Bay, Maryland with Jim K2XJW, President of the ARLHS. Jim was piloting the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society Club Station Afloat, a thirty-five foot motor yacht known as “Sandy Claws”.

Did I work any of the radios on board,

you ask. The answer to that question is “no” because I was too busy trying to keep my breakfast down! ‘Nuff said.

Back on the road after my unfortunate maritime experience, I crossed the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, surely one of the wonders of the modern world, and passed the Norfolk, Virginia Naval base where the very visible aircraft carriers and other warships clearly demonstrated American naval might.

Not too far away was the Military Air Transport Base in Dover, Maryland with its huge aircraft and ever-hovering helicopters.

Kent Island in Chesapeake Bay is part of IOTA reference NA-140, Maryland State West Group. I was able to use the causeway to drive on to the island and park next to a sports field. I put out a call and several hours later, I had 400 QSOs in my log, mostly Europeans and West Coast on 20 meters.

Incidentally, why can Kent Island with its causeway carry an IOTA reference and Achill Island not?

The days were flying past and my Lighthouse score was mounting but it was now time to head for North Carolina. It is not difficult to discover what is North Carolina’s principal agricultural product. Almost as soon as I crossed the State line, I could see the cotton fields with their white topped cover stretching to the horizon.

I kept wondering why the crop had not been harvested by early October but I never got to put the question. Maybe I’ll go back next year to find out!

The Convention was held in the Clarion Hotel on the Ocean, Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina.

Located in an area referred to as the Outer Banks, this is a major recreational area with miles of sandy beaches, islands, and, of course, Lighthouses. It is also notorious among seafarers as a particularly dangerous stretch of coastline.

Peter, MM5PSL, from the Shetland Islands and myself were the only two non-American attendees and we were made very welcome.

The business of the Convention was dis-

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posed of in a most efficient manner and this left plenty of time for socialising, learning about the area and visiting local attractions.

Bruce and Sheryl Shelton-Roberts made a presentation on "North Carolina Lighthouses and the Founding Brothers" and I was subsequently honoured to receive a signed copy of their beautiful book of the same name.

Much of the Outer Banks area is now a National Park and Toni Dufficy, one of the Park Rangers came to talk on the history of some of the Lighthouses under the Park's jurisdiction.

Two of her stories are worth repeating. The Cape Hatteras lighthouse was about to fall into the sea in 1999. Rather than build a new lighthouse further from the sea, a decision was taken to move the existing building 200 meters inland.

This they did, with the whole operation live on the Internet completed in 23 days rather than the estimated three months.

Then there was Bodie Lighthouse. The area, and consequently the Lighthouse, were originally called "Body". In the context of a lighthouse on a dangerous stretch of coastline, this name was regarded as unfortunate – to say the least. Accordingly, a decision was taken to change the name of the area and hence the current name, "Bodie", with the emphasis on the "o".

Outer Banks is located only a short distance from Kitty Hawk where the Wright Brothers flew the first heavier than air machine. We paid a visit to the Wright Brothers Memorial there and used the opportunity to activate the Kitty Hawk Lighthouse. This Light is one of the few in the world that directs its beam not only horizontally but also vertically upwards towards aircraft.

At the conclusion of the Convention on Sunday, 10th October, I activated two more nearby lighthouses (bringing my total up to thirty in four States) together with IOTA NA-067 before heading back up north towards Washington D.C.

On the way it was nice to work more EIs, Chuck EI4IS, Ron EI7IY and Nick EI2JL come to mind.

Jack W4NF in Manassas, Virginia was kind enough to look after me as I spent my last few days "doing" the sights of DC. He was also responsible for me attending a meeting of the Potomac Amateur Radio Club where I had the pleasure of meeting some of the big con-



Cape Hatteras Lighthouse

testers from the Virginia/Maryland area. Jack K4VV was Chairman for the evening and invited me to give a short resume of my trip while Fred K8II sought me out to thank me for the number of Irish IOTAs I had given him.

The business of the evening concerned the upcoming CQWW SSB Contest. A propagation specialist gave a rundown on the band conditions that could be anticipated. In retrospect, this turned out to be spot on.

A member of the CQ Contest Committee spoke about the new security initiatives being introduced to ensure compliance with the Contest rules.

Jack W4NF allowed me to operate his station – amplifier and stacked Force 12s – in those last few days.

Jack's son, Sean, was particularly welcoming to me and it took time to figure out why. As a health conscious family, the only type of milk allowed in the house was of the very low fat variety. As a concession to me, a stock of full cream milk had been acquired. Sean considered this better than Manna from heaven!

Thursday night we celebrated before I had to present myself at Baltimore airport on Friday.

My last Stateside experience was with airport security who insisted on removing a dangerous implement from my luggage – an ALLEN KEY. If I ever

meet that George W. Bush, I will tell him that he owes me a new one.

On the road I used a Kenwood 480HX 200 watt mobile rig with Hustler antennas for each band 10 through 80 meters. Garmin E-Map GPS worked 99% of the time supplemented by Street and Trips CD on my laptop.

After three weeks, 2,500 miles, 4 States, 13 Counties, 30 Lighthouses and 2 IOTAs, I can now state definitively that America is a Big Country.

It's got big buildings, big bridges, big cars and most importantly, people with big hearts.

But, boy, do I miss my Durango?

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

The Waterford Rally took place on Sunday the 17th of October in the Ard Ri Hotel in Waterford.

This was by all means a great success and the rally was well supported by traders and experimenters alike.

The club would like to thank all who went along on the day and supported the rally.

Special thanks to rally organiser Mick, EI5DCB on a job well done. The club are looking forward to putting on a similar event next year.

IRTS President, Sean Donelan, EI4GK was the guest of South Eastern Amateur Radio Group at the October general meeting.

The group enjoyed an interesting talk about the IRTS and amateur radio in general.

SEARG would like to thank Sean for travelling to Waterford on the night under such adverse weather conditions.

Guest speaker at the November general meeting was Rob Mannion (G3XFD/EI5IW), editor of Practical Wireless Magazine.

The meeting was well attended by members of both Tipperary Amateur Radio Group and South Eastern Amateur Radio Group and Rob gave an interesting talk about the history of the magazine.

Please note that the EI2WRC UHF repeater in Waterford City is back on air.



Great Circle Map

by Conor O'Neill EI4JN

I've been active on HF for a year now. There's been so much to learn in that time. Purchase of an old house and work commitments have meant that playing with radios remained well down the priority list. The new home had mature trees all around which provided convenient supports for wire antennas. I hung dipoles roughly north-south leaving the main lobes aligned east west and thought that'll do fine.

Recently we felled a few trees near the house, which cleared the way for hanging dipoles in other orientations. But how would I know which way to orientate a dipole to maximise my chances of catching a VK for example. I presumed that the shortest path along the surface of the earth to the target station would be the best to aim my antenna at.

The obvious thing to do seemed to be to purchase a globe, but because there was so much clutter on the shack desk already what with radios, PC and peripherals that I didn't. In addition I pictured while stretching a piece of string across the colourful ball, it falling to the floor, knocking a hole in it the size of Africa. Way too messy.

So it was during a visit to another hams residence, who had recently erected a beam I naively asked the question how do you know which way to point it? 'I use the Great Circle map' he replied. 'The What?'" says I.

An explanation and demonstration of its use followed. It was quite a revelation. So here I share my new found knowledge with those of you who (probably a minority) haven't come across it already.

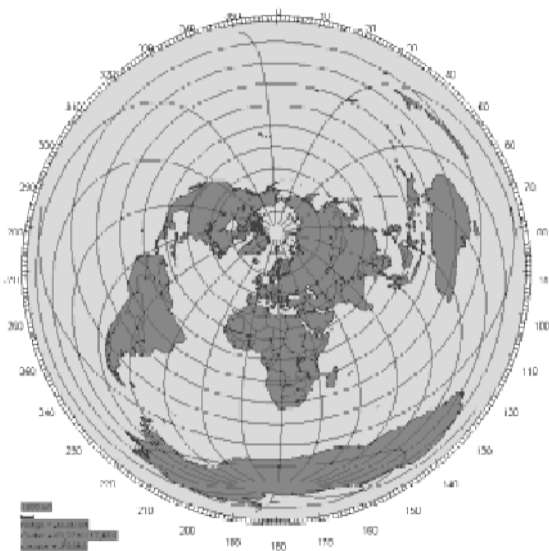
Ships at sea have used such maps for generations to plan voyages. Airlines use them to plan routes and us experimenters in the know, use them to point antennas.

A great circle map is basically the surface of the globe peeled off, stretched and flattened. The traditional map of the world we commonly see is rectangular, this one is round.

At the centre is your location. Align a straight edge with the centre of the map and the far away destination of interest.

See where the line intersects the bearing scale along the edge of the map. Read off the bearing in degrees. That's it!

Sydney is about 69 degrees the short way or $69+180 = 249$ degrees the long way. (Short path and long path.)



Great Circle Map centred on North Pole

In addition there's a scale to read off the distance to any point on the map and time zones are marked in there as well.

A quick search on the web yielded printable versions as well as software to make and print your own.

The other thing the web thought me is that everyone else seems to know about this except me.

So here it is for the few like me that didn't know: The great circle map.

Stolen Equipment Register

A new stolen equipment register has been set up for those in the UK & Ireland that have had equipment stolen and for those who are offered second-hand equipment and want to check it has not been stolen.

In the past stolen equipment has been seen advertised in newspapers and on-line an hopefully this register could help with convictions.

Details of stolen equipment are listed on the website and serial numbers can be compared with equipment for sale.

In order to add items users need to have a list of their equipment details including serial number.

The website is www.gi4oyg.co.uk/raser and was set up by Mervyn GI4OYG from Belfast's Gears Radio Club.

HZ1AB Permanently QRT

The Dhahran Amateur Radio Club has been permanently shut down. This, as the result of telecommunications regulatory changes in Saudi Arabia.

For close to sixty years the Dhahran Amateur Radio Club operated station HZ1AB. Club Secretary Thomas Carlsson, AB5CQ reported that due to revisions made in Amateur Service licensing requirements by the Saudi Arabia Communications and Information Technology Commission, operations were no longer possible.

The HZ1AB callsign has already been reissued to Bandar Salah AL-Harby. Carlsson says that the clubs QSL manager, Leo Fry, K8PYD still has all the logs and will process any outstanding QSL card requests. (WIA News)

IRTS News Broadcast on Dundalk Repeater

The IRTS news has been broadcast on 145.550 every Monday night at 20:00 for the last few years.

In order to increase the coverage, it is now being broadcast on the Dundalk Repeater on 145.675 MHz on Mondays at 2000.

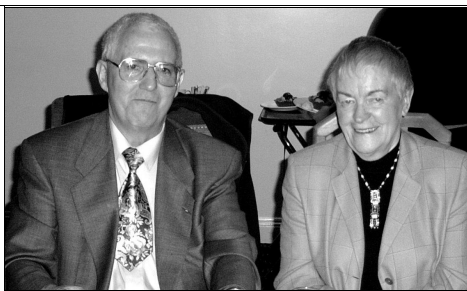
Please do listen and give a reception report after the news.

Regards de Thos EI2JD
Chairman Dundalk ARS

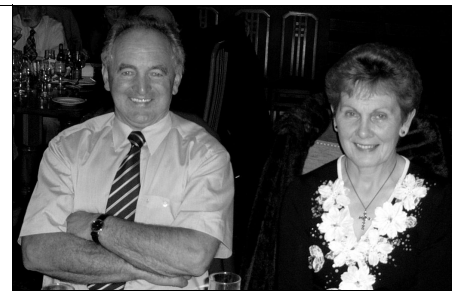
IRTS Region 5 (Cork) Annual Dinner November 5th 2004



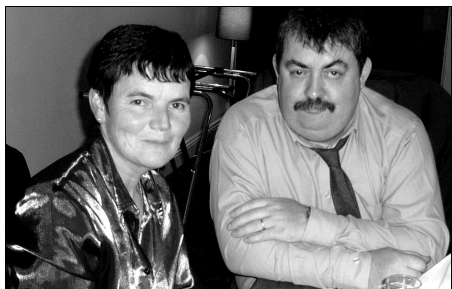
Mike EI8FG/WB1CPJ and XYL Liz



Tony EI9HK and XYL Bríd



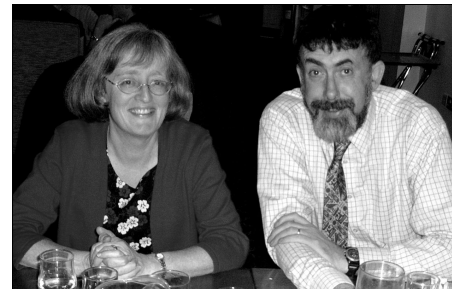
Jack EI7FD & XYL ???



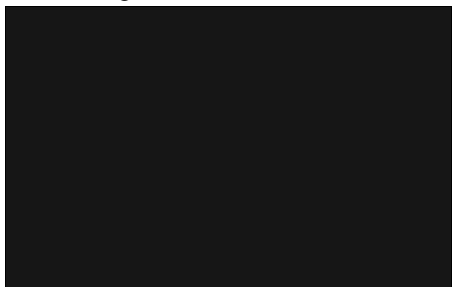
Hugh EI3IY and XYL Liz



Dave EI4BZ & XYL Olive



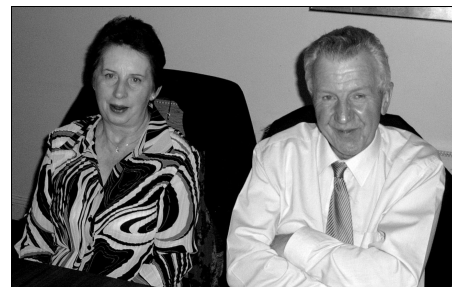
John EI2GN & XYL Stephanie



Jim EI8GS & XYL Geraldine



John EI8IR & XYL Hilary EI4IE



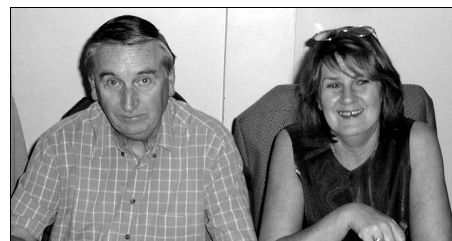
John EI6AK & XYL Breeda



Bernie EI6AX & XYL Mary



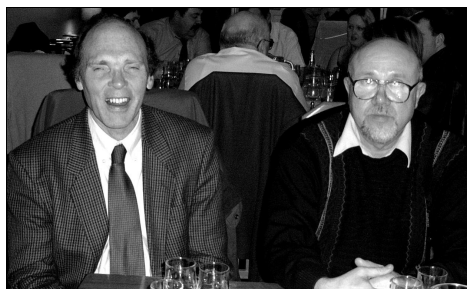
Jeremy EI5GM & Dave EI9FBB



Jim EI3DP & XYL Mamie



John EI3BF & Roseanne Lehane



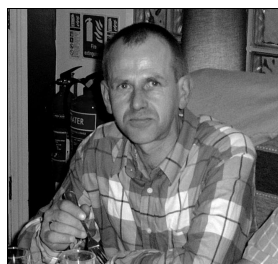
Aedan EI3EG & Anatoly EI



Paul EI6FE & XYL Eimear



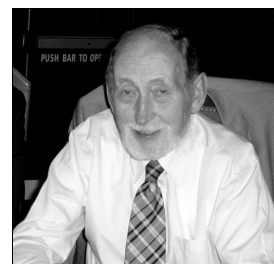
Hugh EI2HI



Denis EI6HB



Charles EI5FK



Tomas EI7AV

Radio Transmitters and Domestic Electronic Equipment

This document was adapted to the Irish situation for the Irish Radio Transmitters Society by Dave Court EI3IO from material published by the Radio Society of Great Britain.

This is intended as an information leaflet for your non-technical neighbours

Purpose of this document

Many homes now contain far more electronic products than ever before. Although these work as expected most of the time, there are occasions when they don't and this can be puzzling and annoying.

This document is intended to help you to identify and solve such problems.

Q1. What can I do if my radio, TV, video recorder or other electronic equipment suffers from interference?

Check the following:

- Are all the controls correctly adjusted?
- Is the outdoor aerial or cable damaged or has either deteriorated with age? (TV Aerial manufacturers recommend replacing an aerial after about 7 years)
- Are neighbours experiencing similar problems? If so, it could be caused by:
 - Unusual weather conditions affecting TV or FM radio reception. (When this happens there are usually announcements on TV)
 - Interference from nearby electric motor or other electrical equipment, or a fault in a nearby electricity substation or overhead electricity cable.
- Is there another type of radio transmitter being used nearby? For example:
 - Garda, fire, ambulance and public utilities (gas, water and electricity companies), cellular telephone and radio paging base stations.
 - Fixed and mobile transmitters operated by local authorities, motoring organisations and many small businesses such as taxi operators.
 - Citizens Band (CB) Radio.
- Radio Experimenter.
-

Q2. How could I find out whether a nearby radio experimenter's transmissions are affecting my electronic equipment?

To do this, you would need to make contact with the radio experimenter concerned and ask him or her to make a test transmission.

Alternatively, you could write a list of dates and times when the problem occurs. The list could be compared with the "log" which a radio experimenter is required to keep under the terms of the amateur transmitting licence.

Q3. If a radio experimenter's transmissions affect my radio or TV, is it the radio experimenter's fault?

In most cases, there is nothing wrong with the radio experimenter's transmitter or with the way it is being operated. In many cases the problem is caused by the design of the domestic radio, TV, video recorder or other equipment.

A problem called breakthrough can occur because the immunity of the affected equipment is not good enough.

This means that the affected equipment is not sufficiently good at rejecting signals which it is not intended to receive.

All radio transmitters operate on assigned frequencies; radio experimenters transmit on frequencies in nationally or internationally allocated amateur radio bands. They are not allowed to transmit on any frequencies which are used for radio and TV broadcasts. However some cable television companies use frequencies within their networks which radio experimenters are authorised to use.

Q4. What do "breakthrough" and "immunity" mean?

If for example a nearby radio transmitter affects the sound from the speakers of a stereo system when it is playing a record, cassette or CD, this is often called breakthrough. The stereo system is receiving radio signals which it is not intended to receive. This indicates that its immunity is not good enough.

If a radio transmitter affects the picture or sound on a nearby TV and there is nothing wrong with the radio transmitter or the way it is being operated then this is also called breakthrough.

A TV should only receive the wanted TV signal; if it also responds to a nearby radio transmitter, the TV does not have enough immunity.

Many types of domestic radios, TVs, video recorders and other electronic equipment currently in use were not designed to have good enough immunity to keep out unwanted radio signals. This also applies to some quite expensive equipment but fortunately, the situation has improved for new equipment (see question 10 below).

Q5. How can "immunity" be explained in a non-technical way?

If a householder has new windows fitted and finds they let in draughts during windy weather, then it could be said that the windows have poor "immunity" to wind. They may be suitable for use in a fairly sheltered location but not at the top of a hill

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

in a windy part of Ireland. As the climate cannot be changed, the windows must be made suitable for the climate, by fitting draught excluders. Clearly, it would be better if these had been fitted by the manufacturer.

Radio waves from many sources such as radio and TV broadcast transmitters, taxi operators and radio experimenters form a different sort of "climate" (The technical term is "electromagnetic environment"). This varies a great deal from one place to another and even from one house to another in the same street. It is controlled by licensing. Most users of radio transmitters in Ireland, including radio experimenters operate under the terms and conditions of a licence issued by the Commission for Communication Regulation (ComReg).

If a radio, TV or other equipment has poor immunity, it may only work properly where the radio wave "climate" is "mild", that is not too near a radio transmitter. Although this "climate" is man-made and can be controlled, the operator of a licensed radio transmitter should not be expected to stop using it just because of insufficient immunity of nearby electronic equipment. Instead, the immunity of the affected equipment should be improved, for example by fitting filters which could be considered as the electronic equivalent of draught excluders on a window.

Q6. If a breakthrough problem occurs, how can it be solved?

Breakthrough problems can normally be solved but this requires co-operation by all parties involved. In most cases, it is possible to improve the immunity of the affected equipment. In some cases, all that is needed is a special filter which plugs into the aerial socket of the radio, TV or video recorder. In other cases, the solution is to wind loudspeaker cables or other interconnecting cables through ferrite rings. A radio experimenter may be able to give advice on how to do this. Suitable filters and ferrite rings are available from various sources. As breakthrough is generally a proximity problem, positioning the transmitting antennas as far away from the affected equipment as possible will also help alleviate breakthrough in some cases. Conversely, breakthrough arising from transmitting antennas that are physically close to the ground and hence nearer to the affected equipment may present more problems.

Q7. Who pays for solving a breakthrough problem?

The responsibility rests with the owner of the affected equipment. In the case of breakthrough from an experimenter's radio station, the radio experimenter may be prepared to provide filters, ferrite rings, etc. on loan.

Q8. Can I call in the Authorities?

ComReg has a statutory function to manage the radio spectrum in Ireland. As part of the management function one of the duties of ComReg is to ensure that frequencies are kept clear for licensed users. That means the removal of technical interference or of improper use of the airwaves.

Anyone who knows or suspects a source of interference can report the source to ComReg, which can check that the nominated transmitter is being operated within the terms of its li-

cence. If you believe technical interference is being caused to licensed telecommunications and broadcasting services using radio frequencies, note the time and place of the interference, how long it lasts and how often it occurs. Contact ComReg via email, regular mail or by telephone, and report all the details.

ComReg may also check licensee's equipment for conformity with their licensing conditions if breakthrough problems are experienced on satellite television receivers or equipment such as telephones, home computers, tape recorders or alarm systems that are not intended to receive radio signals. Again full details of the problems experienced should be provided.

ComReg may be contacted as follows:

Postal Address:-

Commission for Communications Regulation,
Block DEF, Abbey Court,
Irish Life Centre,
Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1.

Phone and Fax:-

Tel: 01 804 9600,
LoCall: 1890 22 9600
Fax: 01 804 9680

Q9. What about telephones?

A normal wired telephone (not cordless) should not respond to radio signals from nearby transmitters but some types of telephone have insufficient immunity to avoid breakthrough of radio transmissions. If this happens on a telephone that is rented from Eircom, or is bought from Eircom and covered by a warranty or maintenance contract, the problem can normally be cured by exchanging the telephone for another model with better immunity.

If the telephone is bought from Eircom or another supplier but is out of warranty, fitting a plug-in filter at the telephone socket or a ferrite ring on the cable may be effective in some cases.

Q10. What is being done to improve immunity of electronic equipment?

Following a European Directive on Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC), almost all new electronic equipment manufactured or installed after 1st January 1996 must meet European EMC standards. EMC means that electronic systems can operate without interfering with each other.

In this context, radio transmitters are classed as "permitted radiators" as they cannot operate without a radio signal being transmitted. The EMC standards apply to commercial and industrial equipment as well as consumer goods such as radios, TVs, video recorders, home computers, burglar alarms, microwave ovens and washing machines. Such equipment carries a "CE" mark to show that it complies with all applicable European Directives at the date of manufacture.

The EMC standards require equipment to have a certain level of immunity to signals from nearby radio transmitters although this immunity may not be adequate in all cases. The standards also limit the level of interference that electronic equipment such as computers produces on nearby radio receivers.

Membership Certificate

IRTS has always been very proud of its membership certificate. The Celtic design has clearly expressed the message that this is an Irish society while the logos of the four provinces serve to illustrate the fact that the membership is representative of all corners of Ireland. Unfortunately, the adoption of metric paper sizes has meant that the certificate is no longer of a standard size and will not fit into any readily available picture frame. As many members are no doubt aware, custom-made frames tend to be rather expensive!

As the Society's stock of certificates began to run out recently, efforts were made to source a new supply of certificates that would represent the ethos of the society in the future as well as the old one had done in the past. We were very fortunate to discover that it was possible to obtain a new certificate using the same design as the old one - but in A4 size. This size will also facilitate computer printing of the member's name and other details. The other benefit is that standard frames for this size should be readily available.

New members should shortly begin to receive their certificates in the new size.

There may be some existing members whose certificates have been lost, mislaid or damaged - or who just wish to receive one of the new certificates. The Committee has decided that new certificates will be available to members on request. To cover the costs involved a charge of €5.00 per certificate will be made.

Members requiring a certificate should apply to the Society Treasurer:

Brendan de hOra EI3GV
7 Lakelands Lawn,
Stillorgan, Blackrock,
Co. Dublin.

Enclose a remittance for €5 and quote the "Date of Joining" on their existing certificate.

Kerry Amateur Radio Group

John, EI9ESB, Billy, EI9CQB, Pat EI5FVB and Ron EI2JP formed the Kerry Amateur Radio Group in September to promote portable operations and public service in the Kingdom.

At its inaugural meeting on September the 26th last, the following officers were elected:

President I	Ron Hahn, EI2JP,
Vice President	John Costello EI9ESB,
Secretary	Billy O'Connor EI7CQB
Treasurer	Pat O'Shea EI5FVB.

The group has set up a web site that can be found at www.kerry.com. Membership in the club is €30 per annum and is open to all Radio Amateurs, Experimenters and Short Wave Listeners.

Regular monthly meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month at Muckcross House, Killarney. All are welcome to attend. Further information on the club can be obtained from any officer or by email to clubinfo@kerry.com.

The club's first "portable ops day" was due to be held (weather permitting) on Saturday, the 27th of November at a site near Valentia, County Kerry. Portable HF operations were due to commence at approximately 10 a.m. until dusk on 40, 20, and 17 metres using a combination of PSK and SSB.

EI3RCW is Back Waterford Institute of Technology

Martin Hayes EI9FMB and John Ronan EI7IG have got the Amateur Radio Station in Waterford Institute of Technology back on the air.

It may not sound like a big deal, but rest assured you that it was.

It has taken several years of negotiating with the "powers that be" in order to get this fairly small step accomplished.

EI3RCW is now QRV on HF, VHF (2m) and UHF (70cms).

The group have sought permission for a network connection in order to allow operation of a Packet Radio to Internet Gateway and an APRS Digipeater plus Internet Gateway.

The former will allow for a continuous feed of packet bulletins to be forwarded to John EI3DIB for distribution on his BBS, and the latter will allow any local APRS packets to be relayed locally and gatewayed out to the internet.

To see the (APRS) position of some Irish (EI) stations go to www.findu.com.

Some of these stations found their way to the internet through local Internet Gateways, and some through an orbiting satellite or the International Space Station.

Martin is hopeful that the station can shortly be used as a teaching aid for some of the Telecommunications subjects he, and other lecturers teach in the college.

Club TV

Club-TV will broadcast as follows:
December 18th at 1000 to 1100 UTC

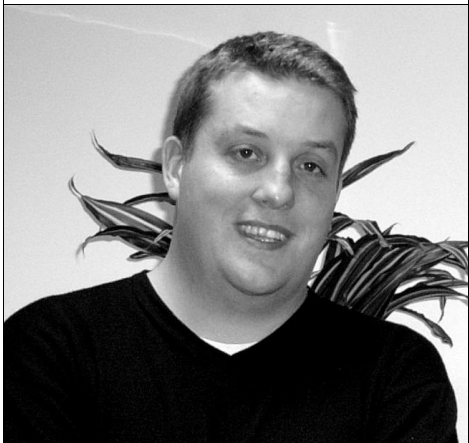
"Airing Ailsa" by GM4LVW and
"Venus Transit" by ATVS (S51KQ)

Club-TV can be received via the Sirius 2 satellite on 5 degrees East. Downlink frequency is 12588 MHz and vertical polarisation, SR 3400 and FEC 3/4.

Further and latest information can be found on www.parabolic.se under Club-TV.

73 de Ben - SM6CKU

ComReg Staff



Dave Thom



Derek O'Reilly,



Pat McMahon,

ComReg did have a staff of three who dealt with experimenter issues. Dave Thom headed the group and Pat McMahon looked after engineering issues.

Derek O'Reilly will be known to most of you as the man who handles the administration, dealing with the day to day licensing issues.

Both Dave and Pat have now moved on and we wish them well in their new roles. We await news of their replacements.



Reading the Mail

By
Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #33 of "Reading the Mail" – an account of IRTS incoming QSL Bureau activity from 1 October to 20 November 2004.

Not a great amount of business to report on this occasion but it is never possible to predict how many items will be received and from where they will come.

For the record small packets (less than 1 kg) came from EDR, FMRE, JARL, MARTS, OVSV, PT2, SY2004KF, UX0FY, and UY0ZG.

I was well occupied also with a 4kg parcel from SRR and a sooner than expected 9.90 kg heavyweight from DARC with cards from many of the calls listed below.

Cards from the following were noticed and thought worthy of mention:

BY1PK, D2U, DP0EPO, HP1/DL2OE, J28XX, LX4B, R3ARES, V5/DJ7XG, XY4KQ, XZ7A, YA/DL2JRM, 5T6M, 5Z4BL, 9G5ZZ, 9G0ARS, and 9N7YDY.

For IOTA chasers there was: BV3/DJ3KR, C98DC, CE0Y/LX1NO, H22A, HH6/DL7CM, HK0GU, JH6KFY, JR5XPG, JW/DJ3KR, RA9LI/9, TA0/Z37M, TF4/LX9EG/p, TS7N, UA1OJL, UA1ADQ/0, YJ0ABR, ZK2BH, 3G0Y, 4W/CU3FT, 4W6EB, and 5K0Z.

Congratulations to all recipients, especially to those who got confirmations of their 6m QSOs with Mauritania and Mexico.

Until my next report, all best wishes and lots of good DX in 2005.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Lightening Strike on M.V. Island Escape



Pictures show the remains of one of the HF vertical antennas following a lightning storm. Luckily the antenna was not in use and was due to be removed having been replaced by the more compact GMDSS station and antennas,

Pictures taken in Toulon on the M.V. Island Escape, June 13th 2004

The M.V. Island Escape is operated by Island Cruises and sails on weekly cruises from Palma de Majorca in the Summer and Santos Brazil during the winter months.

Dave Ryan EI4HT
Hotel Engineer, Island Escape



Emergency Communications

With
John Ketch EI2GN

Training

AREN training will begin in December and it will be organised by distributing material on e-mail and in the post, and by using a directed net to go through it in the format set out in the manual.

The NET will take place on Saturday mornings once a month at 0930 local for up to and not exceeding 1.5 hours as this will leave the rest of the day free. This will happen on the third Saturday of each month, which will mean that the first section of the programme, dealing with basic operating under Emergency conditions, will be completed in February 2005. The net will be activated subsequently to deal further with issues that arise from the training programme.

Further programmes will be offered for those who want to progress beyond the first level.

The initial NET will take place on Dec 18th, Jan 15th and Feb 19th.

The format will as follows:

1. The net will be run as a directed net according to the procedures set out in the manual
2. Each member will be encouraged to bring an item relevant to EmerComms from the amateur radio press, from the general press or from other sources for a brief discussion.
3. The current training section will be taken and the format will require each member of the net to read a sub-section until it is complete. Net control will then emphasise the main points before taking questions and offering clarification as necessary.
4. The programme for the next NET will be outlined and the NET stood down until the following month.

Following discussion the net is likely to occupy a spot just below 7.1MHz.

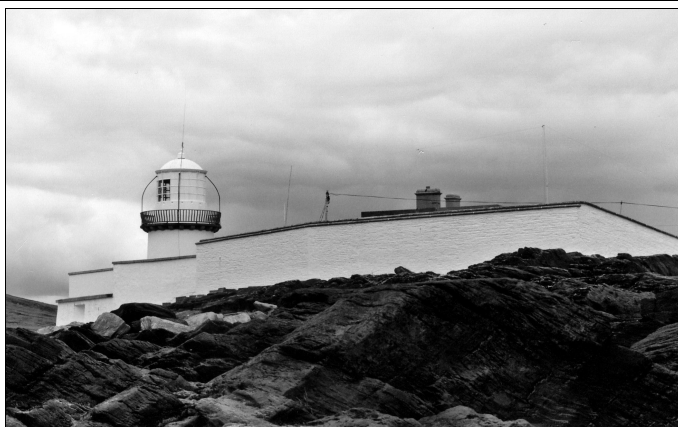
Cork Joint Emergency Planning Group Voluntary Organisations Forum.

The Cork Joint Emergency Planning Group Emergency Management Officer has organised a forum for the voluntary organisations included in the major emergency plan, to be held on December 2nd. This forum will provide a mechanism for the various groups to become acquainted with the professional services and with each other.

Those attending are; AREN, Civil Defence, Red Cross Society, Brothers of Charity, Sub Aqua Clubs, Kerry Mountain Rescue, Irish Cave Rescue, Order of Malta, Search and Rescue Dogs Assoc. and St Johns Ambulance Brigade.

Your Views and Input.

Views of members and interested parties are always welcome on these or on any EmerComms subject. Applications for membership, from individuals or from groups who provide voluntary community communications services throughout the country are always very welcome.



Cromwell Point Lighthouse, Valentia Island

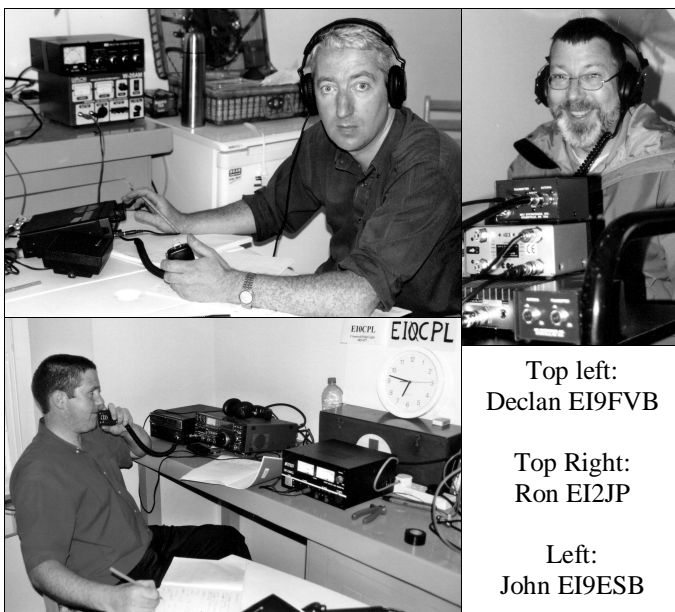
International Lightship and Lighthouse Weekend 2004

The AREN group operated two lighthouses during the ILLW event during August this year. This event was chosen as a non-competitive environment that allowed portable activation at remote locations and brought the operators into contact with professionals whose function is accident prevention.

The two Lighthouses activated were Ballinacourty Point near Dungarvan Co Waterford and Cromwell Point at Valentia in Co. Kerry.

John Costello EI9ESB and Conor O'Neill EI4JN helped to organise the Cromwell point activities with the further participation of John Gill EI9JO, Declan Horan EI9FVB, Ron Hahn EI2JP and Billy O'Connor EI7CQB

The Ballinacourty operation was organised by John Ketch EI2GN with the participation of John Ronan EI7IG, Neill Powell EI3JE and John McCarthy EI8JA.

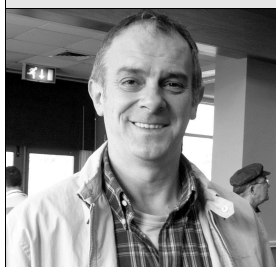


Top left:
Declan EI9FVB

Top Right:
Ron EI2JP

Left:
John EI9ESB

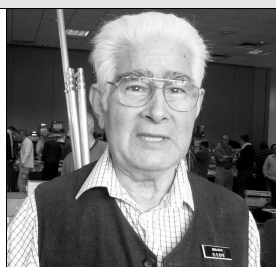
South Eastern Amateur Radio Group Rally October 17th 2004 Ard Rí Hotel, Waterford



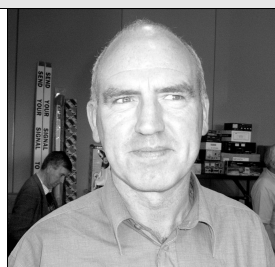
John EI8HS



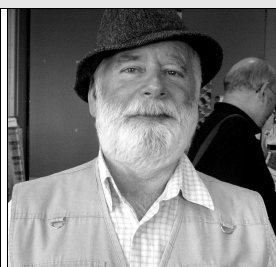
John EI8JA



Ben EI5FYB



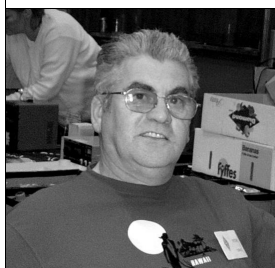
Sean EI5HE



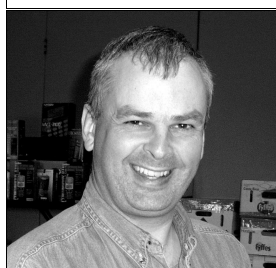
Ron EI4AR



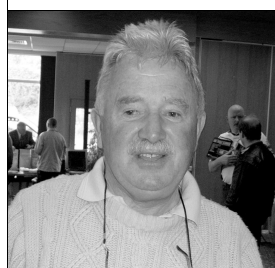
Gary EI3EVB



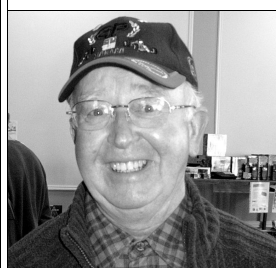
Peter EI4HX



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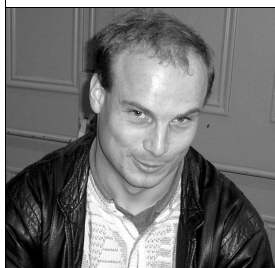
Pat EI4HF



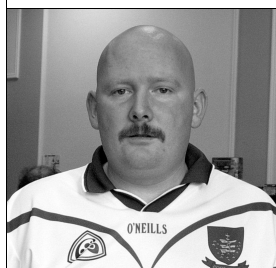
Jeff EI6CW



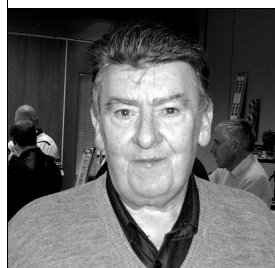
Paul EI3ENB



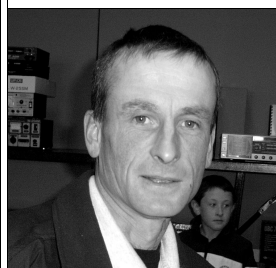
Clifford EI5FQB



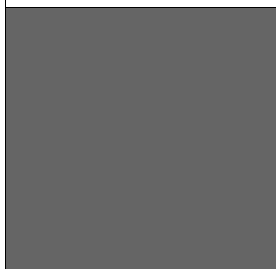
Garrett EI7FZB



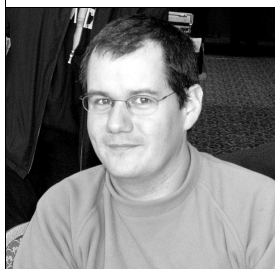
Jim EI8GD



Robbie EI8FZB



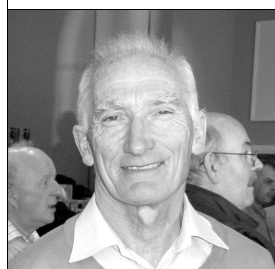
Eoin EI7XBB



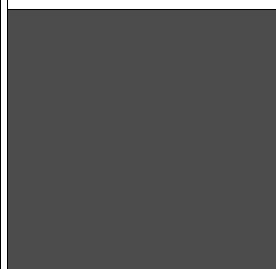
John EI7IG



Mark EI7IS



Jim EI4DT



Paddy EI3AV



Well known Tipperary Radio Group members:
Paul EI3ENB, Hugh EI2HI, John EI2JB and his son Luke



Cork Radio Club members:
Stephen EI6JA, Fr. Finbar EI1CS and John EI2GN

Meeting with ComReg New Frequency Allocations etc.

Representatives of the IRTS and representatives of COMREG met on Wednesday October 27th at the ComReg offices in Dublin.

The President Sean EI4GK, Vice-President Sean Nolan EI7CD and PRO Dave EI4BZ represented the Society while ComReg were represented by Dave Thom, Derek O'Reilly and Pat McMahon.

The main item on the agenda was the extension to the 7 MHz band and EI licensees now have the allocation from 7.0 to 7.2 MHz. The segment 7.1 to 7.2 MHz is allocated on a secondary basis. All modes can be used in the segment and there is a power limit of 20dBW ERP which is 100 watts ERP.

This matter was raised by the IRTS with COMREG at a meeting in February last. Since then, there has been ongoing contact between the Society and ComReg with a view to the release of additional facilities at 7 MHz at the earliest opportunity.

As you already know, the agreement to extend the 7 MHz band by 100 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 of the ITU was the result of years of tireless lobbying by the IARU and its member societies throughout the world.

The allocation of 7.1 to 7.2 MHz by ComReg on a secondary basis is in anticipation of the release of this segment on a primary basis in April 2009 which was the decision at WRC 03. We are pleased, that due to the co-operation of ComReg, EI is one of the first countries in Europe to have secured the additional facilities on 40

Also at the meeting the segment 1240 to 1300 MHz which is already allocated to experimenters on a secondary basis was extended to 1304 MHz to cater for ATV repeaters.

Theory Tests

A public advertisement seeking proposals for conducting the theory examination should be issued by now. The delay in progressing this issue was due to an appeal stemming from the examination held last February. The Society will be responding to the advertisement.

Power Line Transmission

ComReg have been closely involved with the power line proposal; in the Tuam area and they anticipate that if the system is working to FCC Doc 29 there should be problems for licensed experimenters.

The Society is in close contact with the ESB and are closely monitoring the situation.

Callsign Re-issue

ComReg policy on the re-issue of callsigns is that the callsign of a silent key may only be re-issued with the permission of the next of kin.

A lapsed callsign may be re-issued.

Single letter callsigns will not be issued/issued to anyone other than:

- 1) Clubs - application and with the permission of next of kin.
- 2) Family member—blood relatives, son, daughter, niece, nephews.

Repeater callsigns

ComReg intend to harmonise all repeater callsigns to a new

format.

E.g. EI2 for 2 metres, EI4 for 4 Metres, EI6 for 6 Metres and EI7 for 70cm. The suffix will be three or four letters ending with R.

A policy in respect of Echolink and IRLP will be decided following submissions from IRST and other interested parties.

Power Restrictions on 160m

The current position remains but may be revised upwards at a future date.

Entry Level Licences

ComReg has no plans to introduce a novice licence due to the lack of a harmonised CEPT standard and also due to problems encountered with M3's.

New ComReg Handbook for Experimenters

The Communications Regulator has published a new document for Radio Experimenters. This handbook replaces the previously issued Guidance Notes and will be updated from time to time. It aims to answer questions for those interested in obtaining a Radio Experimenter license, as well as act as a reference for current Radio Experimenter License holders.

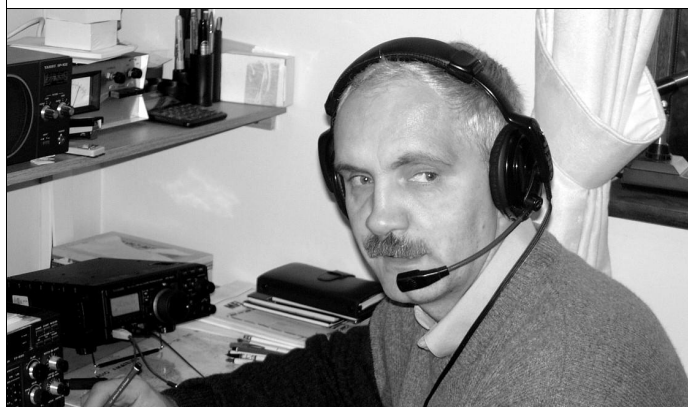
It covers topics such as "What are Radio Experimenter licenses?", "Special License Types" and "Interference? What should I do if I hear misuse of air waves?".

It is downloadable from Comreg's website www.comreg.ie/_fileupload/publications/ComReg0205R4.pdf

Polish DX Contest 2004

The following EI stations appeared in the results of this year's contest.:

	QSOs	Mult.	Score
Single Op 20m only CW EI/SP3SUX	91	16	4,368
Single Op 20m only SSB EI4IS	45	15	2,025
Single Op All Bands CW EI4VXG	101	43	13,029
EI9ES	15	12	540
Single Op All Bands SSB EI9JN	451	49	66,297
Single Op 3 Bands Mixed EI7GY	71	35	7,455
EI2CL	52	31	4,836



Janusz Gacon EI9JN/SP9JZT who achieved the highest EI score in this year's Polish DX Contest

EURADIO

It is now more than half a year since the Day of Welcomes when 10 new countries were received into the European Union. On that weekend, IRTS activated ten special Event Stations from the towns/cities twinned with the accession countries together with a Headquarters station in the Dublin area.

Over recent months the logs from all 11 stations were consolidated on a single database and QSL labels produced. An analysis of the consolidated log indicated that over the 1st May weekend a total of almost 9,000 QSOs were made with 5,000 individual stations in 106 DXCC entities.

At this stage there are indications that some logs are still missing and the final totals are likely to be higher.

An attractive QSL card has been professionally designed, supplies of this card have recently been received from the printer and distribution has commenced.

Amateurs working the EI25 stations were invited to apply for an award if they worked 10 of those stations. The Headquarters Station (EI25EU) could be used as a "joker". In the event of an applicant working less than the ten stations required, two QSOs with stations in the particular accession country could be substituted, provided that at least three of the special event stations were in the log.

To date 68 valid applications for this award have been received and the appropriate certificate issued. The breakdown of the Award applications was as follows:

Germany	29
Poland	13
Slovenia	6
U.K.	5
Belgium	2
Switzerland	2

Holland, Czech Republic, USA, Russia, Hungary, Lithuania, Spain, Canada, Italy, Austria and Ireland 1 each.

The following stations worked all eleven of the EI25 stations:

S51NU, S51AD, SP8FHM, SP9SOU, SP4PBI, UA3AB, DJ1OJ, ON5GY.

Six stations worked ten EI25s:

HB9JOE, G7NRO, SP9NRO, DL1DTC, DL6LZM, SP4JWD

Nine stations worked nine of them:

DL4SDM, DF2HL, DL3AWB, DL2NOM, DL5FR, SP6IEQ, S58C, PG7V, G0THY.

Of the 68 Awards issued three were in respect of SWL applications.

On the basis of the published rules, all applications must be received by 31st December 2004 so further applications could be received in the time remaining.

The Award Certificate was also designed professionally and picks up the same theme as the QSL card. The design and printing of both the card and certificate was sponsored and the Society is deeply appreciative of this sponsorship.

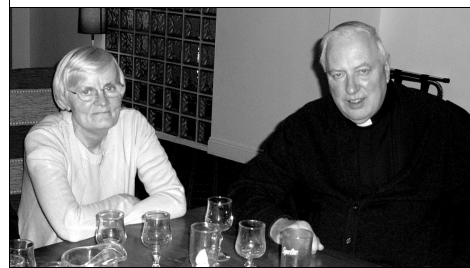
Arrangements will be made in the near future to supply the various groups around the country who operated the EI25 stations with cards and certificates to commemorate the event.

Mayo Radio Experimenter Network

Winners in the Mayo REN October club competition were as follows;

1st place went to John Corless, EI7IQ, 2nd place to John Browne EI7FAB and 3rd place is held by Mike Hayes EI2EO. In 4th place was Brendan Minish EI6IZ and Jimmy Kelly EI2GCB took 5th place.

IRTS Region 5 Annual Dinner



Rev. Finbarr EI1CS with his cousin



Paul WA2S from N.J. and XYL Eileen

APRS Experiment Tipperary

Amateur Radio Group

Members have recently begun experimenting with Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) which was developed by Bob Bruninga, for the purposes of supporting their AREN activities.

John, EI7IG has been experimenting with a TinyTrack3 from Byonics and also purchased several pocket-trackers for use by TARG members and other interested experimenters. These kits are in various stages of construction.

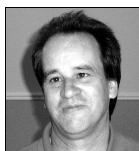
On a recent trip to Navan, 5 Watts were used on the outward trip, and 50 Watts were used on the return. The beacon path was set to relay, WRC2 (with permission from SEARG repeater keeper John, EI8JA).

The stations of EI3RCW, EI7IG and EI3DIB are all currently configured to beacon APRS packets addressed to RELAY, and EI7IGs station is currently configured (when running) gateway packets received to the FUND U, internet based database.

As there is so little activity on packet at the moment, all this experimentation is taking place on 144.850 MHz.

If anyone interested in APRS or the remaining kits contact John, EI7IG at any of the following co-ordinates.

EI7IG@ei3dib.#tipp.irl.eu and
aprs@ei7trg.org.



IRTS Field Day Results 2004

By IRTS Contest Manager, Noel EI2JC

Shannon Basin Radio Club Double Field Day Winners 2004

The Shannon Basin Club entered SSB field for the first time in 2003 and finished 3rd in the restricted section.

This year, they won the SSB restricted section and entering CW Field Day for the first time ever, also ended up winners in that section.

Congratulations to all involved.

Pictured below are the operators who made up both teams.



EI6HW

EI6IB

EI4CF

EI8DL

Not Pictured:
Tony EI6DL
Alan EI3CG

EI9HX

EI3HA

EI5EAB

EI8IU

IRTS HF SSB Field Day 2004

Open Section:

	QSOs	Mults	Points	Total
1st EI9E/P	737	120	2,547	305,640

Restricted Section:

1st. EI2SBC/P	Shannon Basin Radio Club	358	78	1,435	111,930
2nd EI7GY/P	Joe Ryan (single op)	345	75	1,430	107,250
3rd EI7T/P	Tipperary Amateur Radio Group	164	61	578	35,258

EI9E/P operated from The Dirr, Bridgetown, Co. Wexford.

Operators: Declan EI9HQ, John EI2FG, Billy EI7FJ and Eoin EI7FXB

EI2SBC/P and EI7GY/P operated from Garbally College in Ballinasloe.

EI2SBC operators: Fergus EI6IB, Mickey EI5EAB, Pat EI9HX, Brian EI8IU, Tony EI3HA, John EI8DL, Fr. Niall EI4CF

EI7T/P operated from Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny.

Operators: John EI2JB, Eddie EI3FFB, Tommy EI2IT, Paul EI3ENB, John EI7IG.

CW Field Day 2004

Open Section:

		QSOs	Points
1.	EI7M/P East Cork Group	535	1,792

Restricted Section:

1	EI2SBC/P Shannon Basin ARC	469	1,541
2.	EI7GY/P Single Operator	350	1,174

The East Cork Group station was operated by Steve EI9HC and Dave EI4BZ with support from Jim EI8GS and Neil EI3JE.

They operated from a site overlooking Cork Harbour at Glounthaune, a few miles east of Cork City.

Joe Ryan EI7GY travelled from Dublin to operate in an adjacent field to EI7M.

The Shannon Basin Club making their first appearance in CW Field Day, operated from Ballinasloe with the following operators:

Pat EI9HX, Fr. Niall EI4CF, Noel EI6HW, Mickey EI5EAB, Brian EI8IU, Tony EI3HA, John EI8DL, Fergus EI6IB and Alan EI3CG.

A log was also received from Brendan EI0CZ, I was unable to process the data for same.

IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day 2004

Open Section

Winner : EI7M/P

Operators: Jim EI8GS, John EI8IR, Jerry EI6BT, Neil EI3JE, Billy EI7FJ, John EI2FG, Eoin EI7FXB, Tom EI5ASB

Location : White Mountain IO62OM

608 QSOs - 310,908 Kms *

Under the new normalised scoring system the score for this entry is 5000 pts.

The entry achieved maximum (1000) for each band.

As this was the only entry in the Open section this score is almost meaningless.

Under the old scoring system they would have achieved 310,908 points, this is the total distance of the QSO's in Km.

Below is summary of the individual bands:

Score Breakdown	Band	Qso's	Score
	6m	269	185,338
	4m	2	211
	2m	271	112565
	70cms	57	11045
	23cms	9	1749

I commend the group on their excellent effort on all bands, it's a pity there doesn't seem to be another group in EI fit to challenge them .

In fact their score on 2 metres exceeded the total of the 2 entries in the Restricted Section

Restricted Section

1st EI7DAR/P, Dundalk Amateur Radio Society

Operators: Thos EI2JD assisted by EI7IW, EI2HX, EI9FX, MI5AHG

154 QSOs 45,562 points.

Location: IO63QS 4 miles west of Collon in Co. Meath.

2nd EI7T/P, Tipperary Amateur Radio Group

Operators: Paul EI3ENB, Tommy EI2IT, John EI7IG

59 QSO's 22,332 points,

Location: IO62FF Mahon Falls, Co. Waterford.

EI7M/P Open Section Winners VHF/UHF Field Day 2004

EI5ASB

EI7FXB

EI8IR

EI7FJ

EI3JE

EI2FG

EI8GS

EI6BT



Slievenamon Trophy for 70cms - 2004

1st Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI 45 QSOs x 9 Counties = 405 points.

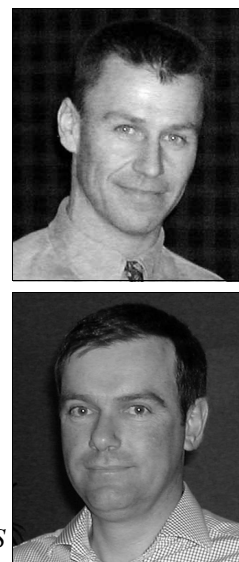
2nd John Kelly EI4HS 25 QSOs x 10 counties = 250 points.

Two excellent logs were submitted by the above operators. The two logs showed many good long range contacts for 70cms FM. This was a great effort by Hugh and John who took advantage of the new rule allowing contacts throughout the month of July.

Hugh EI2HI seems to have almost taken this Trophy in perpetuity. John EI4HS gave him a good run this year having a higher county score but a higher number of QSO's won it again for Hugh.

This contest is a great way of making more use of the 70cms band and deserves more support than it has received thus far. The beautiful Slievenamon Perpetual Trophy presented by the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group is awarded to the winner of this contest.

Pictured: top - EI2HI, bottom - EI2HS



Islands On The Air Contest 2004

EI Results

<i>Call</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>QSOs</i>	<i>Mults</i>	<i>Pwr</i>	<i>Hrs</i>	<i>IOTA</i>	<i>QTH</i>	<i>Position</i>
DXpedition High Power								
EJ2MT	7,378,176	2,508	416	HP		EU121	Bere Island	4th
EJ5E	1,325,160	1,110	180	HP		EU006	Inisheer	35th
DXpedition Low Power - single elements								
EJ4F	973,080	952	170	LP		EU103	Little Saltee	10th
Fixed High Power								
EI2JD	791,700	988	145	HP		EU115	Ireland	44th
Mixed								
EI4BZ	441,084	686	118	HP	12H	EU115	Ireland	3rd
CW								
EI4CF	88,335	165	65	LP	12H	EU115	Ireland	17th
SSB								
EI8IR	2,546,061	2,091	217	HP	24H	EU115	Ireland	2nd
EI7IQ	276,000	444	92	LP	24H	EU115	Ireland	5th
EI7CC	24,192	100	32	LP	12H	EU115	Ireland	

The IOTA Contest results were announced recently and show that EI participation was well down on previous years. A total of nine EI stations are listed in several sections with some very fine achievements.

The highest EI finisher was John EI8IR in the SSB section. He was second despite having a higher QSO and multiplier total than Stewart 5B/GM4AFF.

At the top of the competition, in the multi-operator island station class, EJ2MT, a coalition of the East Cork and Bristol groups finished an excellent fourth and were the top western European station. They were headed by two Croatian stations and one from the Ukraine.

Only three island stations were active for the contest. As well as the aforementioned EJ2MT, members of South Dublin Radio Club travelled to Inisheer and operated as EJ5E.

The EI4GK led team at EJ4F operated from Little Saltee in the 100 watt, single element aerial class and finished tenth in their class.

Only two EI records were broken, EJ2MT in the multi-op section and EI8IR who broke his own record in the single-op SSB section.

Congratulations to all participating stations and we hope for more next year. The full results are available on the RSGB HF Contest Committees website at www.rsgbhfcc.org

Islands On The Air Contest EI Records

<i>Call</i>	<i>QSOs</i>	<i>Mults</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>IOTA</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Island</i>
Multi-Operator						
EJ2MT	2,508	416	7,378,176	EU-121	2004	Bere Island
Island Multi-Operator Low Power, Single Elements						
EJ7M	1,336	239	1,924,428	EU-121	2003	Bere Island
SO 24 Hour Mixed						
EI5DI	1,052	190	1,243,718	EU-115	1999	
SO 24 Hour CW						
EI4BZ	660	115	477,480	EU-115	2001	
SO 24 Hour SSB						
EI8IR	2,091	217	2,546,061	EU-115	2004	
SO 12 Hour Mixed						
EI5DI	567	84	260,820	EU-115	2001	
SO 12 Hour CW						
EI4DW	382	76	181,944	EU-115	2002	

Islands On The Air Contest July 30th & 31st 2005

EU Sprint

Results for the Autumn leg of the EU Sprint SSB contest, which took place on 2nd October last, are now out. They show three EI entries, Thos EI2JD with 84 QSOs, Joe EI7GY just behind him with 83 QSOs and Paul EI3ENB with a score of 26.

This contest takes place twice a year, in the Spring and Autumn, and lasts for just 4 hours, using 3 bands, 20m, 40m and 80m.

The contest has a 'QSY Rule' similar to the rule used in the EI Counties contests.

The next EU Sprint SSB contest is on Saturday 9th April 2005.

Tipperary Amateur Radio Club SSB Field Day 2004



The Club operated from the QTH of Paul Norris EI3ENB and the operators were John EI2JB, Tommy EI2IT, Eddie EI3FFB and Paul EI3ENB.

Equipment used was a Carolina Windom and an Icom PRO2

Practical Wireless 144MHz QRP Contest 2003



The PW 144MHz QRP Contest was held on the second Sunday in June 2003 and the leading EI station was Paul Norris EI3ENB.

Paul finished in overall 41st place and the only other EI entrant John O'Sullivan EI6ARB finished in 56th place. These were good results given that EI is well away from the main activity and the fact that it is a QRP contest.

Next years PW QRP contest will be held on Sunday June 12th when it will again coincide with the RSGB Backpackers contest.

Paul (on left) is pictured receiving his trophy from Rob Mannion G3XFD/EI5IW, Editor of Practical Wireless.

Tipperary Amateur Radio Group Weekend Social Outing



TARG Members and their families recently enjoyed a weekend away in Kenmare. There was very little radio discussed and hence a most enjoyable weekend was had by all.

East Cork in CQWW SSB 2004



Tired operators after 48 hours activity at EI7M:

Jerry EI6BT, Cormac EI4HQ, Thos EI2JD, Neil EI3JE, Jim EI8GS, Mannix EI5HB, John EI8IR.

Shannon Basin Radio Club

The Shannon Basin Radio Club are delighted to have received the use of the call sign EI3Z from the family of the late Pat Conway.

Pat was born in Wicklow and moved to Athlone in the early 1950s when he got a job as a Radio Engineer with Radio Eireann in Athlone.

Pat was a radio fanatic and regularly transmitted the news from Athlone.

Pat was married to Kathleen who was a local school teacher and he remained in Athlone until his death in the early 1980s.

His love for amateur radio inspired him to donate a perpetual trophy to the IRTS for "Services to the Society", but before it was awarded he passed away.

The trophy was presented for the first time to Mr Jim Upton by his wife Kathleen in 1982 and 22 years on it is still a very popular and sought after award.

The Shannon Basin Radio Club would like to thank the Conway family for returning the Call sign EI3Z back to Athlone, and we are sure that Pat and Kathleen would have wanted it too.

IRTS Presentation to Dave Thom of ComReg



At the recent meeting between IRTS and ComReg, the Society President Sean Donegan EI4GK made a presentation to Dave Thom who is moving on from his present job and will no longer be dealing with day to day radio experimenter issues. Sean wished Dave best wishes in his new role and thanked him for his co-operation and helpfulness over the years.

Contest Calendar

December 2004

3/5th	2200-1600	ARRL 160m Contest	CW
11/12th	0000-2400	ARRL 10m Contest	CW/SSB
17th	2100-2300	Russian 160m Contest	CW/SSB
18th	0000-2400	OK DX RTTY Contest	RTTY
18th	0000-2359	RAC Canada Winter Contest	CW/SSB
18/19th	1400-1400	Croatian CW Contest	CW
18/19th	1500-1500	Stew Perry Topband Contest	CW
18/19th	1600-1600	International Naval Contest	
26th	0200-0959	RAEM Contest	CW
26th	0830-1059	DARC Xmas Contest	CW/SSB

January 2005

8th	2000-2300	EUCW 160m Contest	CW
9th	0400-0700	EUCW 160m Contest	CW
15/16th	1200-1200	Hungarian DX Contest	
29/30th	0000-2359	CQ 160m Contest	CW
29/30th	1200-1200	UK DX Contest	RTTY
29/30th	1300-1300	UBA DX Contest	SSB

February 2005

5/6th	0001-2359	10-10 Int. Winter Contest	SSB
5/6th	1800-1758	Mexico International Contest	RTTY
12/13th	0000-2359	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	RTTY
12/13th	1200-1200	Dutch PACC Contest	
12/13th	2100-0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW
19/20th	0000-2400	ARRL International DX Contest	CW
26/27th	0000-2359	CQ 160m Contest	SSB

PCH100H

On 19th December 2004, it is exactly 100 years ago that the Dutch Coastal Station PCH Scheveningen Radio was founded. Sufficient reason to organize an event for radio amateurs all over the world!

The 75th, 85th and 90th anniversary and the closure of the station on 31st December 1998 were celebrated with the opportunity to make radio contact with the coastal station.

Especially during the last days of operation, the possibility to make cross-frequency contact with PCH on maritime frequencies caused tremendous and hour-long pile-ups.

As a final event, on 18th and 19th December the 100th anniversary of the founding of PCH Scheveningen Radio will be commemorated with a special amateur radio station.

This time we will use the callsign PC100H.

You are kindly invited to make contact with PC100H, which will be active from Saturday 18th December 0700 UTC until Sunday 19th December 1900 UTC.

Frequencies:

1.830 CW and 1.850 SSB
 3.530 CW and 3.650 SSB
 7.030 CW and 7.050 SSB
 10.130 CW and 10.145 RTTY/PSK31
 14.030 CW and 14.250 SSB
 18.090 CW and 18.150 SSB
 21.030 CW and 21.250 SSB
 28.030 CW and 28.250 SSB
 144.250 SSB and 145.250 FM
 For the actual schedule, please refer to www.remeus.nl/pch/pc100h.htm.
 Further information can be obtained from hans@remeus.nl.

Outgoing QSL Bureau

Please mail your cards directly to
 The Outgoing Bureau Manager

Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,

Rathlin, Kilcrohane,

Co. Cork.

ei8jk@amsat.org

**Please do not send outgoing cards to
 P.O. Box 462.**

**It only leads to extra expense and
 delays**

Members Advertisements

For Sale: 60 foot lattice 16" triangular Francis & Lewis mast in 10 foot sections. Offers to Joe EI5EV on 086-3751066 or C.J. on 087-6945829

**Members
advertisement
are free**

New DXCluster Node

A new experimental packet DXCluster Node (EI7SDX-3 DDX) and NETROM Node (EI7SDX-5 SWDUDX) has been established in the Dublin mountains at Piperstown at the QTH of EI7HT. User access is on 144.950 MHz.

The Piperstown nodes are expected to provide 2m radio coverage in west County Dublin and the Midlands and will complement the 2m coverage provided in central and eastern Ireland by EI7KRC-2 (Kells) on 144.825 MHz, EI7SDX (Shankill) on 144.875 MHz and EI7WDX (Bray) on 144.925 MHz.

Tom EI7HT and Dave EI3IO would appreciate reception reports of the Piperstown 2m signals to Email shandx@connogue.com.

EI7SDX (Shankill) and EI7WDX (Bray) also provide 1200 Baud user access to the Irish and global packet network on 29.25 MHz, 432.650 MHz and 433.675 MHz. Internet access is also available using the addresses:

telnet://ei7sdx.ath.cx:7300

or telnet://ei7wdx.ath.cx:7300 for the DXCluster and telnet://ei7sdx.ath.cx:7400 or telnet://ei7wdx.ath.cx:7400 for NETROM access.

To give Internet access a try, just place any of the above internet addresses in your favourite web browser and access should be instantaneous. However for NETROM Internet access you will also need a password from the Sysop.

APRS packets are also broadcast in South County Dublin and Wicklow on the 10m, 2m and 70cm frequencies and relevant APRS traffic is gated to and from the Internet.

More details at <http://shandx.ath.cx> or <http://wdx.ath.cx>



Con Hunter EI9V

Well known DXer and twice president of IRTS pictured recently in his shack

Phoenix Amateur Radio Club Radio Rally *Sunday 6th February 2005* at Coolmine Community School Blanchardstown, Dublin

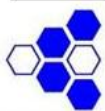
Doors open 1100

Admission €3.00.

Doors open for Traders at 0930

For tables - contact Tony on 01-8252074

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